



Aethiopica 6 (2003)

International Journal of Ethiopian and Eritrean Studies

BAIRU TAFLA

Personalia

In memoriam Harold Golden Marcus (–2003)

Aethiopica 6 (2003), 215–219

ISSN: 1430–1938

Published by

Universität Hamburg

Asien Afrika Institut, Abteilung Afrikanistik und Äthiopistik

Hiob Ludolf Zentrum für Äthiopistik

Personalia

Äthiopien: Texte und Fragen. Herausgeber: Evangelisches Missionswerk im Bereich der Bundesrepublik Deutschland und Berlin in West e.V. (Hamburg 1980).

The Journal of the Archives of Ethiopia (Atlanta).

Bulletin of Ethiopian Manuscripts.

Amharic Church Dictionary (mimeographed and distributed in Addis Ababa in 14 instalments – 1974–1990 – under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture).

In memoriam Harold Golden Marcus (–2003)

BAIRU TAFLA

We regret to note here the passing away of another distinguished historian of Ethiopia, Dr. Harold G. Marcus, and we express herewith our condolence to his wife, Cressida, his daughter, Emma Rose Drabik, and all his close relations and friends. He is said to have died of “cardiac arrest following complications from an ongoing heart condition,” at the age of 66 on 15 January 2003. Harold Marcus is well known to all students of Ethiopian history not only through his numerous and impeccable works, but also through his frequent participation in conferences and symposia as well as through his lively class and public lectures. In so far as we do not, however, possess reliable records on his life, we take the liberty to quote extensively from the germane obituary promptly issued to the “H-Africa LISTSERV” by Prof. Melpage of Michigan State University and edited by Prof. Jim McCann of Boston University, which will be followed by a short list of his publications compiled at random from some bibliographical works and footnotes.

“A graduate of Clark University, he [Harold] received his Ph.D. from Boston University in 1964 after studies with the anthropologist and historian, Daniel McCall. His dissertation research took him for the first time to Ethiopia, which became the focus of his academic interests for the rest of his life. He also studied and wrote more widely on African history, and on the development and decline of colonialism in Africa and worldwide.

“He was the author of many articles, editor of several books and collections of essays, and also editor of the journal *Northeast Africa Studies*. His biographies of Ethiopian Emperors Menilek II and Haile Selassie were not only well received in scholarly circles, but are also reprinted and widely read by the educated public in the Horn of Africa. His second volume of the Haile Selassie biography will be published posthumously by the University of California Press. And his *History of Ethiopia* is widely regarded as perhaps the best short history of the country.

“In addition to his purely scholarly work, Harold Marcus was founding editor of *H-Africa*, based at Michigan State University. Many journalists and government officials turned to him for understanding and guidance about a wide variety of matters concerning the Horn of Africa.

“Moreover, Harold believed that scholarship was nothing without commitment. He was active in what he believed were causes that served the people of northeastern Africa and their desire for better lives. He was an advocate for human rights for Ethiopians in the region and in the United States. And he was, despite a sometimes gruff exterior, truly a man of compassion and caring, as many of his students and colleagues can testify.

“He was deeply committed to teaching, first at Addis Ababa and Howard Universities, and then for 35 years at Michigan State University where he was Distinguished Professor of History. He was also a visiting professor at the University of Khartoum and Osaka Gaidai University and lectured at scores of colleges and universities around the world. Harold believed that his scholarly efforts also demanded that he share his knowledge directly with students. Thus, he leaves a legacy of many former students around the world who owe him both intellectual and very often personal debts and who are carrying on his vision of an ever-widening circle of scholarship about Africa.”

A Short List of Harold Golden Marcus's publications

Books

The modern history of Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa – a select and annotated bibliography = Hoover Inst. bibliogr. Ser. 56 (Stanford 1972).

The life and times of Menelik II, Ethiopia, 1844–1913 = Oxford Studies in African Affairs (Oxford 1975).

Ethiopia, Great Britain and the United States, 1941–1974: the politics of empire (Berkeley 1983).

Haile Sellassie I: the formative years, 1892–1936 (Berkeley 1987).

A History of Ethiopia (Berkeley 1993).

Translations and/or Editions

[With] DONALD E. CRUMMEY [eds.], *Ethiopia: land and history* = Rural Africana 11 (East Lansing, Mich. 1970).

[With] MELVIN E. PAGE, “John Studdy Leigh: first footsteps in East Africa” in: *International Journal of African Historical Studies* (1972) pp. 470–78.

[With] EZEKIEL GEBISSA, TIBEBE ESHETE et al., *My Life and Ethiopia's Progress: Haile Sellassie I, King of Kings of Ethiopia*. Vol. Two (East Lansing, Mich. 1994).

Proceedings of the First U.S. Conference on Ethiopian Studies, 1973 = *Occasional Papers Series: Monograph No. 3* (East Lansing, Mich. 1975).

North East African Studies [formerly *Ethiopianist Notes*] (1979–2002),

Preproceedings of the Sixth Michigan State University Conference on North-east Africa (Holiday Inn, East Lansing, April 23–25, 1992).

New Trends in Ethiopian Studies. Papers of the 12th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies (Lawrenceville 1994).

Articles

“A note on the first United States mission to Ethiopia” in: *Ethiopia Observer* 8 (1963) pp. 162–68.

“A background to direct British diplomatic involvement in Ethiopia, 1894–1896” in: *Journal of Ethiopian Studies* 1.2 (1963) pp. 121–32.

“Ethio-British negotiations concerning the western border with Sudan, 1896–1902” in: *Journal of African History* 4.1 (1963) pp. 81–94.

“The last years of the reign of the Emperor Menilek, 1906–1913” in: *Journal of Semitic Studies* 9 (1964) pp. 229–34.

“A preliminary history of the Tripartite Treaty of December 13, 1906” in: *Journal of Ethiopian Studies* 2.4 (1964) pp. 21–40.

“The Rodd Mission of 1897” in: *Journal of Ethiopian Studies* 3.4 (1965) pp. 25–35.

- “The foreign policy of the emperor Menelik 1896–1898: a rejoinder” in: *Journal of African History* 7.1 (1966) pp. 117–22.
- “History of the negotiations concerning the border between Ethiopia and British East Africa, 1897–1914” in: *Boston Univ. Papers on Africa* 2 (1966) pp. 237–65.
- “Motives, methods and some results of the unification of Ethiopia during the reign of Menilek II” in: *Proceedings of the Third International Conference of Ethiopian Studies* (1969) 1, pp. 269–80.
- “Imperialism and expansionism in Ethiopia from 1865 to 1900” in: L.H. GANN and P. DUIGNAN (eds.), *Colonialism in Africa!* (Cambridge 1969) pp. 420–61.
- “The end of the reign of Menelik II” in: *Journal of African History* 11.4 (1970) pp. 571–89.
- “The black men who turned white. European attitudes towards Ethiopians, 1850–1900” in: *Archiv Orientalni* 39.4 (1971) pp. 155–66.
- “Some reflections on the development of government and taxation in Southern Ethiopia around the turn of the century” in: *Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference of Ethiopian Studies* (1974) pp. 633–40.
- “The British and the Ethiopian railway” in: *African Dimensions* (1975) pp. 29–51.

The following entries have been published in The Encyclopaedia Africana: Dictionary of African Biography 1–20. 1: Ethiopia–Ghana (New York 1977): Bafana; Haile Sellassie I; Menilek II.; Mikael; Tasamma Nadaw; Tsehai Negus; Walda Giyorgis Abboye; Wale Betul; Zawditu.

- “The infrastructure of the Italo-Ethiopian crisis: Haile Sellassie, the Solomonic empire, and the world economy, 1916–1936” in: *Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference of Ethiopian Studies; Session B.* (1979) pp. 559–67.
- “Disease, hospitals and Italian colonial aspirations in Ethiopia, 1930–35” in: *Northeast African Studies* 1.1 (1979) pp. 21–26.
- “The organization of Menelik’s court and imperial hospitality <after.1896>” in: *Rural Africana* 11 (1970) pp. 57–62.
- “Genesis of an Ethiopian monarch: Haile Selassie. 1916–1918” in: *Horn of Africa* 3.4 (1980) pp. 46–50.

- “France’s abandonment of Ethiopia to Italy, 1928–1935” in: STANISLAV SEGERT and ANDRÁS J.E. BODROGLIGETE (eds.), *Ethiopian Studies. Dedicated to Wolf Leslau* (Wiesbaden 1983) pp. 430–37.
- “The embargo of arms sales to Ethiopia, 1916–1930” in: *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 16.4 (1983) pp. 263–79.
- “American security and Ethiopia, 1948–1953” in: *Proceedings of the Seventh International Conference of Ethiopian Studies* (1984) pp. 351–57.
- “Somalia and the decline of American interest in Ethiopia, 1963–1969” in: *Proceedings of the International Congress of Somali Studies* (1984) pp. 279–89.
- “The politics of famine: more than drought has stricken Ethiopia” in: *Worldview* 28 (1985) pp. 20–23.
- “Continuation in Ethiopian foreign policy from Menilek to Mengistu” in: *Proceedings of the 2nd International Conference on the Horn of Africa* (1987) pp. 127–30.
- “Quest for the sea: Ras Tafari in Europe, 1924” in: *Proceedings of the Eighth International Conference of Ethiopian Studies* (1989) 2, pp. 243–51.
- “The corruption of Ethiopian history” in: *Preproceedings of the Sixth Michigan State University Conference on Northeast Africa* (Holiday Inn, East Lansing, April 23–25, 1992) pp. 220–22.
- “Haile Sellassie’s Leadership” in: *New Trends in Ethiopian Studies. Papers of the 12th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies*, Michigan State University, 5–10 September 1994 (Lawrenceville 1994) pp. 840–45.
- “Haile Sellassie’s Development Policies and Views 1916–1960” in: *Études éthiopiennes. Actes de la X. conférence internationale des études éthiopiennes, Paris 24–28 août 1988* (Paris 1994) 1, pp. 641–648.

In memoriam Aleksander Ferenc (1945–2001)

JOANNA MANTEL-NIEĆKO

Aleksander Ferenc was born in Chełm Wielki (today known as Chełm Śląski). He graduated from the Oświęcim High School in 1962 and thereafter pursued his studies at Warsaw University. He passed his entrance examinations with merit, and joined the Faculty of Semitics and Institute of Oriental Studies. Aleksander Ferenc was a student of Professor Stefan